

# County DIGEST



APRIL 2006

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## Mayor Antonovich and Governor Schwarzenegger Attend Choir Festival at Walt Disney Concert Hall



On Monday, March 20, Mayor Michael D. Antonovich and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger attended the Los Angeles Master Chorale's 17<sup>th</sup> annual High School Choir Festival at the Walt Disney Concert Hall.

Students from 23 high schools from across the County of Los Angeles participated in the festival, including those from the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts, which Mayor Antonovich co-founded in 1985.

## Employee of the Month Coroner's Clarissa De La Torre

Clarissa De La Torre has been working for the County for 24 years and is currently employed as a Forensic Technician II with the Department of Coroner where she is assigned to the Forensic Support and Photography Services Section. Her duties include assigning a Forensic Technician I or II to assist a Departmental Medical Examiner with their autopsy. She creates daily task sheets for each technician in order to assist them with their assigned tasks.

Clarissa's extensive experience in photography has led her to assist in the creation of Departmental procedures and policies, in addition to increasing daily productivity and workload flow. "The most fulfilling aspect of my job is knowing that the photographic evidence

EOM

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EXTRA!!! *County* DIGEST EXTRA!!!

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Excellence



Workforce  
Excellence



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Effectiveness



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Responsibility

**Details to follow...**

## HIGHLIGHTS

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*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"*

## EVENT CALENDAR

*Please join Mayor Michael D. Antonovich at his 9th annual event "Remembering Our Veterans and Their Families Past, Present and Future"*

Saturday, May 27 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Arcadia County Park, 405 S. Santa Anita Avenue, Arcadia 91006

### **Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden**

**301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia 91007**

For a list of seminars, workshops and classes, please visit [www.arboretum.org](http://www.arboretum.org) or call (626) 821-4623

### **Los Angeles County Museum of Art**

**5905 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles 90036**

**(323) 857-6000**

**[www.lacma.org](http://www.lacma.org)**

Through June 4 – *Contemporary Projects 10: You Only Live 25 Times*

Through June 11 – *Ettore Sottsass, Designer*

### **Music Center**

**135 N. Grand Ave., Los Angeles 90012**

**(213) 972-7211**

**[www.musiccenter.org](http://www.musiccenter.org)**

### **Dorothy Chandler Pavilion**

May 27 - June 17 – Elliot Goldenthal's "*Grendel*"

June 7 - June 24 – Giuseppe Verdi's "*La Traviata*"

### **Mark Taper Forum**

May 15 - "On The Sunny Side of the Street"

Through May 21 - Joshua Sobol's "*iWitness*"

### **Walt Disney Concert Hall**

**151 S. Grand Ave., Los Angeles 90012**

### **APRIL**

25 - Chamber: Beethoven Cycle (8 p.m.)

26 - Ravi Shankar's Festival of India III (8 p.m.)

27 - Carlos Fuentes (8 p.m.)

28-30 - Los Angeles Philharmonic: Beethoven Cycle: the Fifth

30 - LA Master Chorale: Treasure (7 p.m.)

### **MAY**

3 - Andsnes & Bostridge Celebrity Recital (8 p.m.)

4 - Los Angeles Philharmonic: Beethoven Cycle: 7, 8 (8 p.m.)

5 - Los Angeles Philharmonic: First Nights: Hillborg (8 p.m.)

6 - Los Angeles Philharmonic: Beethoven Unbound: 5 + 7 (8 p.m.)

7 - Los Angeles Philharmonic: Beethoven Cycle: 7, 8 (2 p.m.)

9 - Green Umbrella: Premieres (8 p.m.)

11 - Los Angeles Philharmonic: Beethoven Cycle: the Ninth (8 p.m.)

12 - Los Angeles Philharmonic: Beethoven Unbound: 8 + 9 (8 p.m.)

13 - Los Angeles Philharmonic (8 p.m.)

14 - Henry Mancini Institute Alumni Orchestra (2 p.m.)

16 - Tom Friedman (8 p.m.)

18-19 - Emerson String Quartet: Beethoven Unbound: Quartets: C/D

20-21 - Los Angeles Philharmonic: Beethoven Cycle: 5, 8



## Celebrate Public Service Recognition Week May 1-7, 2006

**SAVE THE DATE**

County of Los Angeles

**8<sup>th</sup> Annual**

**Multicultural Conference**

**April 26 & 27, 2006**

**Wilshire Grand Hotel**  
**930 Wilshire Boulevard**  
**Los Angeles, California 90017**

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Adapting to Change In A  
Culturally Diverse Society

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For more information, please contact:  
**Mary Norman (213) 738-9417 [mnorman@dmh.co.la.ca.us](mailto:mnorman@dmh.co.la.ca.us)**

## County DIGEST

Articles and other submissions to the *County DIGEST* may be edited or otherwise altered for clarity.

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## Supervisor Knabe Dedicates Two Homeless Centers in Long Beach

Supervisor Don Knabe led the Grand Opening celebrations for two new homeless service facilities in the City of Long Beach.

The first event was the dedication of the new Mary McLeod Bethune Transitional Center, a school that provides mainstream educational and health services to children of homeless families. The new 6,000 square foot campus helps many of the 800 homeless children enrolled in the Long Beach Unified School District receive the same academic opportunities that students in other local schools receive. Supervisor Knabe secured \$1 million in Federal Community Development Block Grant money to help fund construction of the Bethune Center.



The second event was the dedication of a new homeless shelter, which will serve as the first permanent, year-round shelter in Long Beach. The 59-bed facility will accommodate both men and women in separate units and will include services beyond free overnight housing and meals. Anyone staying at the shelter will be able to access an array of services, including mental health, housing assistance and job training services. Supervisor Knabe earmarked \$787,000 in County homeless shelter funding towards construction and operation costs.



“Both of these programs are about giving homeless men, women and children a leg up,” Supervisor Knabe said. “At both facilities we are giving people access to the same educational, health and social services any other resident of the County of Los Angeles can enjoy.”

The Bethune Transitional Center is located at 2041 San Gabriel Avenue in Long Beach, and the Year-Round Shelter’s address is 1368 Oregon Avenue in Long Beach.

## Supervisor Yaroslavsky Signs Measure at Influenza Preparedness Summit

Appearing at the California-Los Angeles Joint Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Summit in downtown Los Angeles, Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky (*right*) signs a Memorandum of Understanding guaranteeing full cooperation between federal, state and local authorities to better prepare for a potential global pandemic of avian flu, should the virus break out of existing bird populations and start spreading widely among humans. Signing the measure with Supervisor Yaroslavsky are federal Secretary of Health and Human Services Michael Leavitt (*left*) and California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger (*standing behind*). Please visit <http://pandemicflu.gov> for the latest information from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.



## MTA and Foothill Transit Passes



MTA and Foothill transit passes are available for purchase from the Office of the Treasurer and Tax Collector on the first floor of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, window #114.



# RETIREES

*Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after 30 or more years of service to the people of the County of Los Angeles:*

**AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/WEIGHTS & MEASURES:** John A. Santos

**ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL:** Marvin Stitts

**ASSESSOR:** Alan Bato

**BEACHES & HARBORS:** Larry Carstensen, Evilio Rodriguez

**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE:** Ida M. Benson, Gaylord S. McCool

**CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICE:** Jonathan E. Williams

**CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES:** Robert Holmes, Carol Mentell, Edward S. Mizrahi, Cynthia L. Ventus

**CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES:** Charlene S. Azikiwe, Mildred J. Davis, Betty W. Dunson, Sharlene F. Grant, Celinda Henry, Rafael E. Martinez, Rosa McElroy-Elli, Beverly M. Muench, Hiroko N. Nakao, Claudine Robinson

**COMMUNITY & SENIOR SERVICES:** Aleta A. Buckner, Carol A. Gardner

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** Robert L. Budman, Thomas A. Gray, John Paccione

**FIRE:** James F. Abajian, William A. Apodaca, William D. Barker, Gary Brougher, Christine M. Core, Hernan Cortes, David G. Courtney, Errol F. Davidson, Thomas A. Glonchak, Charles A. Lovers Jr., Michael C. Meredith, James H. Nishida, James A. Padgett, Richard Palomarez, Hubert L. Parker II, Douglas P. Roberts, Robert M. Rodriguez, George T. Sinichak, David L. Sturdy, Kenneth E. Whiteing, Kurt F. Wilhelm

**INTERNAL SERVICES:** Raymond Becerra, Michael Dumas, Martha Gasca, David R. Leyva, Robert G. Raine, Isagani V. Romana, Bernadette Tolliver, Genevieve Willow, Robert W. Yates, Josephine A. Yonai, Ignacio Zarate Jr.

**LACERA:** Katharine Migita, Charlotte A. Smith

**MENTAL HEALTH:** Beverly D. Carter, Cora E. Fullmore, Barbara Leifer, Manon L. Sutherland

**PARKS & RECREATION:** Royce W. Johnson

**PROBATION:** Diane C. Carson-Huff, Annie M. Cox, Melvin C. Duncantel, Henry W. Jansen III, Trena F. Lovett, Ronald Millar, Anthony J. O'Shea, Susan C. Turner

**PUBLIC DEFENDER:** Michael O. Clark, Melvin T. Higashi, Gareth J. Kim, Frances C. Kippen, Mauel R. Martinez Jr.

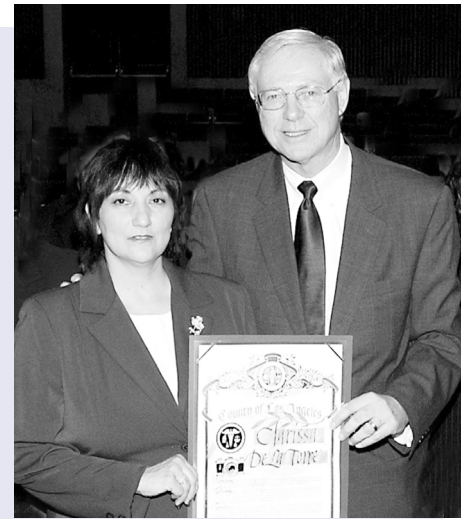
**PUBLIC LIBRARY:** Priscilla Jubilado, Patricia A. Libby, Martha A. Martinez, Phyllis Young

**RETIREES**  
*continued on page 5*

**EOM**

*continued from page 1*

that I helped produce and provide to all the investigating agencies connected to a case, is an important piece of a puzzle that is needed to complete an investigation. As a result, a criminal is taken off the street, put behind bars and a loved one is finally put to rest," Clarissa stated.



She was selected and trained as the primary operator and trainer of staff for the digital photo printing system. The ability to multitask has allowed her to supervise daily operations in autopsy and produce hundreds of photo requests for courtroom evidence and testimony of Medical Examiners. Her knowledge is vast and is passed on to photographers through training classes and evaluations.

Clarissa brings a unique element to her work through her professionalism, self motivation and sense of humor. "My goal is to continue to try and bring up the morale among my fellow co-workers, even if it's just a little each day that I'm at work. I get this feeling of self satisfaction when I see my co-workers happy and smiling, which can sometimes be rather difficult, due to the nature of our work."

In addition to her tasks at work, Clarissa was appointed chair of the departmental fundraising committee. "Fundraising brings a kind of unity and camaraderie in such a sensitive workplace as the Coroner's that in a sense it is like therapy for me."

Being a cancer survivor, Clarissa is actively involved with senior and adult cancer support groups. She regularly attends PTA meetings at her youngest son's middle school and assists parents at the West Covina City Youth Sports League, in support of the after school programs set up to help keep kids off the streets.

She holds certificates and citations for training and excellence in photography from East Los Angeles College and the Kodak and Noritsu training schools located in the greater Los Angeles area.

Clarissa De La Torre is married to her high school sweetheart Frank, a retired member of the National Guard who served in Kuwait for six months. They have three children, Julissa (27), Karel (20), Alec (14) and one grandchild, Kai Joseph Leotti (1).

For all your hard work and dedication, Clarissa De La Torre, we congratulate you and wish you continued success!



## RETIREES

continued from page 4

**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Hector Bobadilla, Linda S. Bryant, Barbara A. Colores, Cassandra J. Ester, Barbara A. Gonzales, Jacqueline S. Hayes, May Kingi, Linda J. Macasil, Rosa N. Martin and James R. Wilson

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Larcyna C. Benson, Henry C. Chen, Reza Izadi, Fung-Kim Lee, Priscilla Peguero, Joe Salazar, Kenneth H. San Miguel

**SHERIFF:** Jesus A. Arellano, Marilyn A. Feigley, James R. Fowler, Eric L. Hartman, John P. Kearns, James L. O'Neal II, Rubye Rodriguez, Randolph S. Sato, Nicholas J. Scinocca, John M. Wilkinson

**SUPERIOR COURT:** Ilene A. Burman, Marian J. Duval, Paul Enright, Haydee F. Falcon, Dahlia Moreno

***Congratulations to the following employees who are joining the ranks of the retired after 25 or more years of service to the people of the County of Los Angeles:***

**AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER/WEIGHTS & MEASURES:** Rose A. Santos

**ASSESSOR:** Felizardo D. Laureano

**CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES:** Mary J. Newman

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY:** Valerie Vest

**FIRE:** Thomas R. Clark, Donald F. Lassig, Thomas G. Page, Rory Rehbeck, Roderick D. Washington

**HUMAN RESOURCES/OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY:** Eddie J. Jackson

**INTERNAL SERVICES:** Allan B. Robinson

**MENTAL HEALTH:** Verda R. Bradley, Graciano A. Patague

**PARKS & RECREATION:** Sheila M. Ortega

**PROBATION:** Lauro Arroyo, Connie Benitez, Robert E. McDowell

**PUBLIC DEFENDER:** Philip Lipson

**PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES:** Elsie Yang

**SHERIFF:** Sharon A. Enos, Giang H. Nguyen, Eyvonne L. Turner

**SUPERIOR COURT:** Classie Calvin Porte, Gertrudes I. Escorido, Shirley J. Myers

## Supervisor Molina Welcomes Blockbuster Video to East Los Angeles

Supervisor Gloria Molina welcomed Blockbuster Video to the East Los Angeles community at an open house hosted by the East L.A. Chamber of Commerce on February 28.

“For years, national retailers overlooked the East Los Angeles unincorporated region – but not anymore,” Supervisor Molina said. “Blockbuster Video now joins the Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf, Quiznos, and Dairy Queen as part of our community. This neighborhood is flourishing thanks to your confidence in it and I know that local residents appreciate your investments.”

Sheriff Lee Baca and California Highway Patrol Captain Bill Siegle joined Supervisor Molina and members of the East L.A. Chamber of Commerce at the mixer in part to underscore the connection between merchant participation and the success of the East L.A. Task Force in reducing local crime. Since its creation, residents and business owners have expressed strong support for the task force’s effective, multi-agency approach. It requires close collaboration between the District Attorney, Probation and Sheriff’s Departments as well as regular communication between law enforcement personnel, residents, and proprietors.

By simultaneously combating crime and cleaning up nuisance areas, Supervisor Molina has worked in partnership with the East L.A. Chamber of Commerce to initiate economic development. Several high-profile public works projects adding luster to the neighborhood include the East L.A. Library and Civic Center adjacent to the refurbished Belvedere Park Lake; reconstruction of West Whittier Boulevard; and the Metro Gold Line Eastside Extension light rail project, which already has spurred transit-oriented development along the corridor.



*Supervisor Molina celebrates Blockbuster Video’s entrance into the East L.A. community with (left to right) California Highway Patrol Captain Bill Siegle, Sheriff Lee Baca, Blockbuster Representative Kim Buss, and Blockbuster Regional Director Gilbert Avila.*

# ENRICHING LIVES...

## County Pollworker Program



### COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

#### County Employee Pollworker Application June 6, 2006 – PRIMARY ELECTION

<b>EMPLOYEE</b>	NAME:		PAYROLL TITLE (no abbreviations please)	
	HOME ADDRESS:		MAILING ADDRESS (if different):	
	CITY:	ZIP CODE:	CITY:	ZIP CODE:
	HOME NUMBER:		DEPARTMENT NAME	
	CAN YOU SPEAK AND UNDERSTAND A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH? YES _____ NO _____		DEPT #	DATE OF BIRTH:
	IF YES, WHAT LANGUAGE? _____		OFFICE PHONE:	FAX NUMBER:
	DO YOU USE A COMPUTER AT HOME OR WORK? YES _____ NO _____		EMAIL ADDRESS:	
			WORK ADDRESS:	
	DO YOU HAVE TRANSPORTATION? YES _____ NO _____		CITY: ZIP CODE:	
	I certify that I am a registered voter in California: Signature: _____ Indicate County of registration: <input type="checkbox"/> Los Angeles <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____		<b>WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO SERVE IN ANY OF THESE HARD TO RECRUIT AREAS?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> West Los Angeles <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Palisades <input type="checkbox"/> Beverly Hills <input type="checkbox"/> South Los Angeles <input type="checkbox"/> San Fernando Valley <input type="checkbox"/> Redondo Beach <input type="checkbox"/> Long Beach <input type="checkbox"/> Rancho Palos Verdes	

It's ok if you are not able to serve in these cities – **WE STILL NEED YOU!**

<b>SUPERVISOR AUTHORIZATION</b>	NAME:		TITLE	
	SIGNATURE		FAX NUMBER	
	OFFICE PHONE		EMAIL	
	<b>Complete and fax this application to (562) 651-1035 or (562) 462-1073</b> <b>For more information or questions, call 562-462-3016 or <a href="mailto:kmac@rrcc.co.la.ca.us">kmac@rrcc.co.la.ca.us</a>.</b>			

<b>RR/CC USE ONLY – June 06 Pollworker Outreach (KM)</b>						
SUP:	1	2	3	4	5	Voter I.D. #: _____ - _____ - _____
Assigned Precinct: _____			Home Precinct: _____			
Position:	<u>NVC Director</u>	<u>Inspector</u>	<u>ML Clerk</u>	<u>Clerk</u>	Lives out of County: <u>YES</u> <u>NO</u>	

Critical pollworker recruiting problems and Election Day “no shows” forced election officials nationwide to turn to increasingly creative ways to supplement the traditional force of dedicated pollworkers. A pilot “County Employee Voluntary Pollworker Program” was created and has been in effect since November 1998. The Board of Supervisors endorsed this pilot program permitting voluntary “reassignment” of County employees (with permission of their supervisors) to the Department of Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC) for Election Day.

For the November 1998 Gubernatorial Election, 360 County employees served as County pollworkers. The program has since expanded to 3,754 employees who served in the November 2004 Presidential Election. The program is popular with County employees, providing participants with a community service opportunity while helping alleviate critical pollworker shortages. Based on the great success of this pilot program, the Board of Supervisors approved the transition of the pilot



*Margaret Donnellan Todd,  
County Librarian*



*Kathryn Barger-Leibrich, Chief  
Deputy for Mayor Antonovich*

“County Employee Voluntary Pollworker Program,” as a permanent County Program on July 31, 2001.

The County Pollworker Program enables County employees to serve on Election Day as a regular pollworker. They help set-up the polls, assist voters when signing in, issue ballots, and close the polls. County employees who are not registered to vote in the County of Los Angeles can still work at the polls on Election Day. Due to this flexibility, the RR/CC was able to place many more County pollworkers to serve in the polls.



## County of Los Angeles VISION

Our ***purpose*** is to improve the quality of life in Los Angeles County by providing responsive, efficient and high quality public services that promote the self-sufficiency, well-being and prosperity of individuals, families, businesses and communities.

Our ***philosophy*** of teamwork and collaboration is anchored in our ***shared values***:

- **A can-do attitude** - we approach each challenge believing that, together, a solution can be achieved.
- **Accountability** - we accept responsibility for the decisions we make and the actions we take.
- **Compassion** - we treat those we serve and each other in a kind and caring manner.
- **Commitment** - we always go the extra mile to achieve our mission.
- **Integrity** - we act consistent with our values.
- **Professionalism** - we perform to a high standard of excellence.
- **Respect for diversity** - we value the uniqueness of every individual and their perspective.
- **Responsiveness** - we take the action needed in a timely manner.

Our ***position*** as the premier organization for those working in the public interest is established by:

- a capability to undertake programs that have public value;
- an aspiration to be recognized through our achievements as the model for civic innovation; and a pledge to always work to earn the public trust.



## **Beaches and Harbors Sponsors Free AVP Volleyball Clinics for County of Los Angeles Youth**

Beaches and Harbors is sponsoring volleyball clinics conducted by the very prestigious Association for Volleyball Professionals (AVP) Pro Beach Volleyball Tour for youth ages 6-17 from all five supervisorial districts.

The AVP Pro Beach Volleyball Tour, Inc. is a leading lifestyle sports entertainment company focused on the production, marketing and distribution of professional beach volleyball events worldwide. AVP offers specific programming and support to the County's at-risk youth and the general community by providing them with healthy and enjoyable beach volleyball activities in a safe and social environment. Fun-filled volleyball clinics, which are held free of charge at Dockweiler State Beach, are offered to Los Angeles County youth, providing progressive step-by-step hands-on experience in the sport. The next available clinics will take place on May 24, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. To sign up or for more information, please contact Kellie DeHaas at (310) 426-7112 or at [kdeHaas@avp.com](mailto:kdeHaas@avp.com).

AVP staged 14 events throughout the United States in 2005 featuring more than 150 of the top American men and women competitors in the sport. For 2006, the Pro Beach Volleyball Tour will be increased to 16 events. In 2004, AVP athletes successfully represented the United States during the Olympics in Athens, Greece, winning gold and bronze medals. These were the first medals won by U.S. women in professional beach volleyball.

## **Mayor Antonovich Presents Scholarships to Emancipated Foster Youth**

At a recent Board of Supervisors meeting, Mayor Michael D. Antonovich recognized four emancipating foster youth who were the recipients of scholarships from the Los Angeles County African American Heritage Committee (AAHC). Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke also joined in the presentation.

Every year, the African American Heritage Committee co-sponsors an annual observance of Black History Month. This year, the Committee decided to forgo its usual musical celebration, believing that its resources would be better used by awarding \$250 scholarships to four emancipating foster children.



*Pictured from left to right are Mayor Antonovich, Melody Harvey, Jessie Riggins (Treasurer, African American Heritage Committee), Victoria Helm, Corey Nash, Brittney Whitmore, Supervisor Burke, Cynthia Machen (Chairperson, African American Heritage Committee), and Dr. David Sanders (Director, Department of Children and Family Services).*

"I applaud the African American Heritage Committee for this generous donation to our emancipating youth, who are in special need of our support," Mayor Antonovich said. "It is my pleasure to present these scholarships."

The four \$250 scholarships were presented to Melody Harvey of Blair High School in Pasadena, Victoria Helm of Opportunity for Learning in Canyon Country, Corey Nash of King Drew Medical Magnet in Los Angeles, and Brittney Whitmore of Lynwood High School in Lynwood.

Melody, an honor student with an overall GPA of 3.8, has applied to several universities and plans to major in business economics, statistics or accounting and math. Victoria maintains a 3.25 GPA while volunteering with the Canyon Country Boys and Girls Club and plans on attending College of the Canyons this fall. Corey, who works part-time and maintains a 3.7 GPA, has already been accepted to U.C. Riverside and San Diego State University. Brittney also works part-time while maintaining a 3.3 GPA, and hopes to become a psychologist.

## Supervisor Burke Presents Living Legends Awards

As always, there was standing room only at the A.C. Bilbrew Library on the last Saturday in February, the traditional day when the Board of Supervisors and the County Public Library present the Living Legends program, observing Black History Month. Those who have attended previous programs would be expecting something special, and the 27<sup>th</sup> annual Living Legends lived up to expectations.

Natalie Cole and Lerone Bennett, Jr., author of the best-selling college textbook *Before The Mayflower: A History of Black America* and other books, and Executive Editor Emeritus of "Ebony" magazine, were present to receive their awards as Living Legends. Robin Petgrave, of Tomorrow's Aeronautical Museum in Compton, was there to receive a Special Service award.

Master of Ceremonies Jim Hill, Sports Broadcaster at KCBS-TV Channel 2, captivated the audience with his sense of humor and his charming dalliance with Natalie Cole and Little Miss African American, eight-year-old Wendy Morrow, who recited a selection from Langston Hughes' poem "I, Too, Sing America."

Just before Supervisor Burke's introduction of the Living Legends honorees, vocalist Elaine Gibbs performed a musical tribute to Natalie Cole, including the hit songs "This Will Be" and "Inseparable." Ms. Gibbs was backed by the Stuart Pearlman Groove Masters Band, and during the last song of the set she left the bandstand, mounted the stage, and handed her microphone to Natalie Cole, who finished singing the song to a standing ovation.

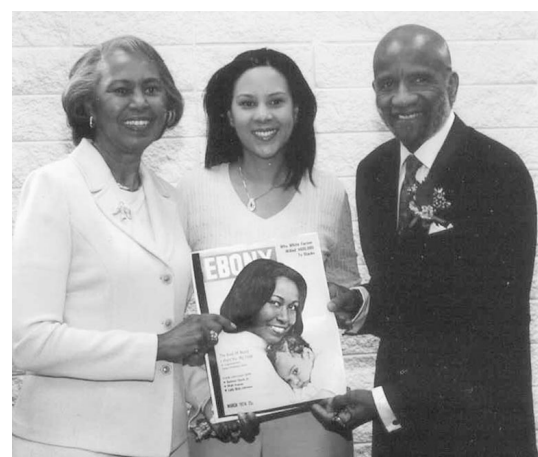
Supervisor Burke and County Librarian Margaret Donnellan Todd then presented Lerone Bennett, Jr. with his Living Legends award. He addressed the crowd, saying that the County program "is the way black history should be presented." He went on to note that "Black History Month is your history month, no matter what color you are, because ... this history is also the history of this country."

After Natalie Cole received her Living Legends award, the Grammy-winning singer and actress told the audience that as a little girl growing up in the posh Los Angeles enclave of Hancock Park—where the Coles were the only black family—she spent a lot of time at a nearby public library reading about black history. Then she decided to let the audience in on a little secret. With a big smile she revealed that she and Jim Hill had dated "for a hot minute" some years before. Hill, usually quick with a quip, could only turn away and grin broadly. Ms. Cole finished her remarks by encouraging parents to "teach our children to be a ten, not a four," that is, to be satisfied only with the best and not with mediocrity. For the rest of the program Jim Hill referred to Ms. Cole as a "ten."

Others who performed at the event included the U.S. Marine Guard with the posting of colors; saxophonist Carl Bennett rendering the National



*From left to right, Master of Ceremonies Jim Hill, Supervisor Burke, Natalie Cole, Lerone Bennett, Jr. and County Librarian Margaret Donnellan Todd.*



*32 YEARS LATER – Before the program Supervisor Burke, daughter, Autumn, and Lerone Bennett, Jr. enjoyed a copy of the March, 1974 issue of Ebony magazine, with a picture of the Supervisor and baby Autumn on the cover. At the time Supervisor Burke was the first member of the U.S. Congress who'd had a baby while in office. Bennett, who brought the magazine with him, was Editor of Ebony at the time.*

Anthem; and vocalist Jessica Smith, who sang "Lift Every Voice." Bishop Henry Williamson, Sr., of C.M.E. Church, ninth Episcopal District, led the invocation. Aldore Collier, West Coast Bureau Chief of "Jet" magazine, made closing remarks. Rev. Dr. John Hunter of First A.M.E. Church led the benediction.

Following the program, the honorees, performers and County staff enjoyed a reception with a soul food lunch. Then, Natalie Cole, who authored her best selling autobiography *Angel On My Shoulder*, joined Lerone Bennett, Jr. at a book signing.

## Mayor Antonovich Praises Mental Health Court Program

At a recent Board of Supervisors meeting, Mayor Michael D. Antonovich lauded the success of the Mental Health Court Program administered by the Department of Mental Health.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Justice, more than 16% of jail inmates have a mental illness, 70% of whom are in jail for non-violent offenses. The goal of the Mental Health Court Program is to facilitate collaboration among the criminal justice, mental health, and substance abuse systems in order to prevent adults with severe mental illness from re-entering the legal system.

The program offers several types of services to ensure that individuals receive the mental health treatment they need while in jail, provide crisis intervention and education to attorneys, judges, and family members, and advocate for community reintegration



*Mayor Antonovich presents a scroll to Alisa Dunn, LCSW, Mental Health Clinical Program Head.*

through referrals to treatment programs in lieu of incarceration.

The Mental Health Court Program was the first program in California to serve mentally ill defendants in court by providing mental health consultation services. Of the 3,500 adults assisted

in 2005, more than 1,600 were referred to community-based mental health treatment, and over 700 were diverted from the criminal justice system.

The program received the first Mental Illness and Law Enforcement Systems Recognition Award for Outstanding Service to People and Families with Mental Illness. The program has also been visited by representatives from Orange, San Francisco, Riverside, San Bernardino and Alameda counties as a model for mental health court programs in other jurisdictions in California.

Since its inception in 1987, the program's effectiveness has been recognized and the County has expanded it upon requests from judges and attorneys, from 5 to 22 participating courts, including those in Alhambra, Burbank, Citrus, Glendale, Newhall, Pasadena, and San Fernando.

## Norwalk Regional Health Center Re-Opens

Nearly four years after County budget cuts forced its closure, the Norwalk Regional Health Center is back in business. Supervisor Don Knabe lead the clinic's re-opening with a ribbon cutting and dedication.

The re-opening of the Health Center was made possible by contributions from Supervisor Don Knabe, JWCH Institute, L.A. Care Health Plan, Kaiser Permanente, and the Department of Health Services.

The newly-renovated Health Center will be operated by JWCH Institute, Inc., a private, non-profit health agency founded by a group of prominent Los Angeles-area physicians in 1960. Since then, the Institute has managed several health clinics targeting under-served residents of the County of Los Angeles.

The Health Center, which is now accepting patients, will provide free and low-cost medical care and social services to the residents of the surrounding communities. JWCH is collaborating with the following agencies to provide the patients a wide range of services: ALMA Family Services, Intercommunity Child Guidance Center, Los Angeles Center for Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Oldtimers Foundation, Southern



California Alcohol and Drug Programs, Whittier Rio Hondo AIDS Project, and Helpline Youth Counseling.

"When you look at the low-cost services available in this community, you find they are virtually non-existent. The people who need this clinic the most have to travel a great distance to receive the services it once provided before closing," Supervisor Knabe said. "This re-opening is a rebirth. It is a commitment that we have not given up on providing outstanding health care to this community."

The Norwalk Regional Health Center is located at 12360 Firestone Boulevard in the city of Norwalk.



## Supervisor Yaroslavsky Attends Dedication of Will Rogers State Historic Park & Home

Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky chats with Joseph Carter – author of “The Quotable Will Rogers” and “Never Met a Man I Didn’t Like,” and manager of the Will Rogers Memorial Museum in Claremore, Oklahoma - at the dedication of the newly restored Will Rogers State Historic Park and Home in Pacific Palisades. The one-time estate of legendary cowboy performer, actor and humorist Will Rogers, the property was deeded to the State of California in 1944 after the death of Rogers’ widow Betty, who passed away nine years after her husband died tragically in the crash of his small plane along with co-pilot Wiley Post. The grand re-opening followed a three-year, \$5 million restoration designed to restore the grounds, and the main residence - now a museum - to more closely approximate the home that Rogers and his family enjoyed at the peak of his international fame in the 1930s. Please visit [http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=626](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=626) for visitor information about the park, and [http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=22456](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=22456) for full details on the painstaking restoration program.



## Supervisor Yaroslavsky Dedicates the Simms/Mann Health and Wellness Clinic

From the left, Supervisors Zev Yaroslavsky and Yvonne B. Burke; Liz Forer, Chief Executive Officer of the Venice Family Clinic; and Vicki and Ron Simms gather to dedicate the Clinic’s new Simms/Mann Health and Wellness Clinic. Made possible through a generous donation from the Simms’s and the Simms/Mann Family Foundation, the facility is the first health, wellness and integrative medicine treatment center offered at a free clinic in the United States. The Center will offer several pilot programs

concentrating on reducing obesity, managing chronic pain, nutrition, diabetes care and stress reduction. The Center is located at 2509 Pico Blvd. in Santa Monica. Please visit <http://www.venicefamilyclinic.org> for information about the Center and details about the Clinic’s seven locations and full complement of programs.

## LACERA Elections

LACERA Elections will be held this year to elect the Third Member of the Board of Investments and the Third Member of the Board of Retirement for terms of office commencing January 1, 2007. The elections will be held **Tuesday, August 8, 2006**.

General Members interested in running for these offices may obtain nomination packets beginning **Wednesday, April 26, 2006** from the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk at 12400 Imperial Hwy., Norwalk, CA 90650. Nominating petitions must be signed by at least 50 active county employees (as of March 1, 2006) who are General Members. Petitions must be filed with the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, on or before 5 p.m. **Thursday, May 25, 2006**.

## The Enhanced *Performance Counts!* Web Site

The enhanced *Performance Counts!* Web site was developed to be the County’s one-stop resource for *Performance Counts!* information. County managers, supervisors, and employees, as well as the general public, can access the Web site to learn about or re-familiarize themselves with *Performance Counts!*

This initial launch of the enhanced *Performance Counts!* Web site provides background information, training materials, Frequently Asked Questions, links to resources, and other useful information. In subsequent phases, the Web site will allow users to post *Performance Counts!* questions and eventually participate in a “chat room” environment.

The *Performance Counts!* Web site can be accessed at [http://lacounty.info/performance\\_counts/](http://lacounty.info/performance_counts/)

# Share It

## Internet Dating Services

Love may have always been in the air but now it's on the internet too. Today, meeting new people is only a mouse click away. Membership based dating Web sites offer you access to singles looking to meet other people. If internet dating interests you, the following tips can help you choose the right service and avoid problems with your membership.

There are dozens of different dating services operating on the internet. Some cater to a wide variety of age groups and backgrounds, while others are geared to specific age groups, ethnicities, or religious beliefs. You can use popular search engines like Google or Yahoo to help locate a service that's right for you.



Many online dating services offer trial memberships that let you search their site free of charge for a short time. However, a paid membership is usually required if you want to contact other members. Be sure to read the terms of a trial membership before you sign up. Some automatically enroll you if you do not cancel before the trial period ends.

While internet dating services exist to help you find love and friendship, keep in mind that they are still a business. Before signing up, be sure you understand how much you will be charged for their service. Most offer monthly or yearly rates but may automatically renew your membership unless you take steps to cancel. After you cancel, some services will leave you in their database but limit your ability to communicate with others until you renew. Others may delete you the minute you hit the cancel button.

If you experience billing problems with your membership, contact your provider's customer service department or your credit card company to dispute the charge. If you're still having problems, call the department of Consumer Affairs at (213) 974-1452. The Department of Consumer Affairs handles this and other consumer complaints.



### Members of the Board

**Michael D. Antonovich**  
Mayor  
Fifth District

**Gloria Molina**  
First District

**Yvonne B. Burke**  
Second District

**Zev Yaroslavsky**  
Third District

**Don Knabe**  
Fourth District

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**Michael J. Henry**  
Director of Personnel

**Sandra Wallace Blaydow**  
Ombudsman/Community Liaison

**John S. Mina**  
Managing Editor

**Martina Abgaryan**  
Editor